

ACORN

The Journal of The Architectural Conservancy of Ontario

XXI
1
Winter
1996



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Winter 1996

The Architectural Conservancy of Ontario Inc.
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A society incorporated in 1933 for the preservation of the best examples of the architecture of the province, and for the protection of its places of natural beauty.

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Cover: Pantages Theatre, Toronto.

The Yonge Street entrance gallery ceiling as it appears after restoration.

Mr. Garth Dabrinski was the recipient of an Award of Merit from the
Toronto Region Branch for his purchase and restoration of the 1919
Thomas Lamb designed Theatre. Credit: F. Spalding-Smith No. 8917-7

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the Honourable Marilyn Mushinski, Minister, is gratefully acknowledged.

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Published three times a year.

President's Message

One of the things I have enjoyed most over the last decade with the ACO has been the opportunity to say thanks to the many generous volunteers who have selflessly given their time and enthusiasm so that we may better understand the buildings of Ontario.

Some of the most gratifying thank yous have taken the form of awards to individuals for the purchase and restoration of buildings. The re-transformation of the interior of a structure to its original finished state can be breathtaking. In my limited experience, the most memorable reversal of fortune was that performed by Mr. Garth Drabinsky on the Imperial (Pantages) Theatre in Toronto. (See cover photograph.)

In Woodstock on April 19 and 20, we will be given a feast of success stories - a ton of good news! 12 talks will celebrate the restoration of interiors. Come, join us.

Alec Keefer

Please note that...

The deadline for the Picture Contest contained in ACORN XX 3&4, pages 19 and 20, has been extended until April 15, 1996. So write down your answers and mail them in today.

1996 Campaign

Committee Members A.K. Sculthorpe (Chair), Pat Rosebrugh, Mary Angela Tucker, Paul Dilse, Dory Vanderhoof, Steve Thomas and Catherine Tredway

FISCAL CHALLENGES

When treasurer John Sutlic presented his draft 1995 financial statement of head office revenues and expenses, there were more of the latter than the former. 1995 was not unusual in this regard. Provincial Council has been, and continues to be, severely cash strapped.

The cash crunch will get worse once the effect of the cuts by the Government of Ontario is felt.

To improve the financial picture at head office, The ACO is embarking on the largest fund raising campaign in its history. Every individual member is being asked to make a special tax-creditable donation to The ACO this year.

WHERE OUR MONEY COMES FROM

Members' annual dues represent one source of income for head office. A portion of annual membership dues collected by the Branches (now \$12.00) and all of the dues from Ontario members without branch affiliation flow to Provincial Council. Declining membership has reduced this source.

Head office also relies on donations, interest from investment accounts, fund raisers and government grants. As a provincial heritage organization, The ACO receives an annual operating grant from the Ministry of Citizenship, Culture and Recreation

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-- in 1995, \$14,020.00. We are expecting a 40 per cent cut to the grants program.

WHERE OUR MONEY GOES

Provincial Council co-ordinates and underwrites the cost of the Advisory Board community service program, runs the annual workshop, markets ACO publications primarily for the Branches, shares in organizing the annual conference, and publishes the ACORN. It also fulfils the requirements of charitable status, provides a head office meeting space, and covers liability insurance on Branch events.

THE BOTTOM LINE

To balance the books, we need to raise funds equal to our 1995 activities and the proposed cut in the government operating grant. Help us make the difference! Please give generously when we call on you.

A.K. Sculthorpe

Minutes of Annual General Meeting

SATURDAY, MAY 20 1995
UNIVERSITY OF OTTAWA,
OTTAWA

Mr. Alec Keefer, President, welcomed 35 members to the sixty-second Annual General Meeting of the Architectural Conservancy of Ontario, Inc. He introduced the guest speaker, Mr. Basil Kuglin of the Quinte Branch, who had generously agreed to repeat his highly regarded talk delivered to the Conference on Vernacular Architecture in Brantford in 1993. The business

portion of the meeting was called to order at 11:15 am.

The President noted that, while some of our initiatives were thwarted in the past year, he was particularly pleased to announce that a new branch was being proposed for the Windsor area, and that the Hamilton Branch was being revitalized.

AGENDA

It was moved by Patricia Rosebrugh, seconded by A.K. Sculthorpe, that the agenda for the Annual General Meeting of the ACO be approved by the membership.

CARRIED

MINUTES

The minutes of the Annual General Meeting were circulated to the members as part of the WInter 1995 issue of ACORN. It was moved by the Secretary, seconded by Dan Atkinson, that the minutes of the previous Annual General Meeting be accepted as circulated.

CARRIED

BUSINESS ARISING

No resolutions requiring particular action were passed at the previous Annual General Meeting.

FINANCIAL REPORT

Mr. Dan Atkinson, C.A., presented the Financial Report on behalf of the Treasurer, John Sutlic. Mr. Atkinson outlined the organization's financial status with reference to the audited financial statement for the year ending December 31 1994. He noted an increase in total assets compared with the previous year. The purchase of the Sheave Tower property by the Cambridge branch was reflected in the Restricted Funds, Heritage Section (note 5a). In answer to a query from Mrs. Julia Beck, Mr. Keefer stated that a prize of \$500.00 from the Bieniewski Fund has been

presented by the president of the North Waterloo Branch, Mr. Herbert Whitney, to the Township of Wilmot in recognition of the restoration of Castle Kilbride.

Under the Statement of Receipts and Disbursements, receipts included \$20,000.00 from the Kingsway Park book sales. Outlays by branches for projects such as the Capitol Theatre restoration in Port Hope and the Sheave Tower legal expenses, as well as cash calendar expenses are included in the disbursements. Mr. Bob Sculthorpe asked for a further explanation of notes receivable relating to the Port Hope Community Heritage Fund. Mrs. Sculthorpe agreed to look into this.

It was moved by Mr. Atkinson, seconded by Mr. Sculthorpe, that the Financial Report be accepted.

CARRIED. The President

expressed his appreciation to Mr. Atkinson for taking over the duties of treasurer for this meeting.

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

Mr. John Martins-Manteiga outlined the duties for which he was hired two and a half years ago, and noted that work on the Cash Calendar had consumed many extra hours. He reported that the acquisition of a used copier and fax machine had been a great benefit, but he stated that the need for a computer upgrade is becoming critical. Internet capability would greatly increase The ACO's ability to communicate. It was moved by Mr. Martins-Manteiga, seconded by Mr. Atkinson, that the Administrator's Report be accepted.

CARRIED.

MEMBERSHIP & PUBLICITY COMMITTEE

Mrs. Joyce Sowby, Chair, presented the report, noting that the membership now stands at 2000 members. She stated that five

committee meetings had been held in the past year, with the design of a new ACO brochure being a major project. Mrs. Sowby expressed her thanks to Mr. Manteiga and to the branch representatives on the committee, particularly to Bill Butt of Oxford and John Rutledge of Huron for preparing drafts of the brochure. Mr. Rutledge and Lynda Schneider of Cambridge will carry it through to completion. She asked that each branch submit at least one photograph or drawing, camera-ready and carrying the name of the building, its date, and the ACO involvement with it.

Mrs. Sowby announced that her term as chair was over and wished the best of luck to her successor. It was move by Mrs. Sowby, seconded by Sandra Fuller, that the report of the membership & Publicity Committee be accepted.

CARRIED.

ADVISORY BOARD

The President announced that Mr. Bill Greer has resigned as Chair of the Advisory Board after three years of dedicated service. He asked the acting chair, Paul Dilse, to present the Board's report, explaining that Mr. Dilse had been retained by The ACO since April under a UIC program. Mr. Dilse reported on current projects, telephone advice given, Advisory Board monitoring, correspondence, meetings, publicity, and organizational work. He presented the slate of proposed new members of the Board -- an archivist, a conservation analyst, two historians, a heritage planner, and a Professor of Architecture. Comments were made on the desirability of adding more architect members.

Among the recommendations made in the report was one asking for the appointment of a Chair, but

(continued on page 9)

Interior Stories: The Restoration of Interior Spaces (A Conservation Conference)

***Woodstock*
April 19-20, 1996**

A conference with 12 illustrated talks on the conservation of the building interiors.

It is to be held at New St. Paul's Anglican Church Parish Hall, 19 Wellington St., Woodstock. A walking tour and a bus tour are also provided with some interiors on display.

The Architectural Conservancy of Ontario and Community Heritage Ontario will present a book fair during the conference. Browse and buy the latest titles from publishers, booksellers and heritage organizations.

Your conference host is the Oxford County branch of The Architectural Conservancy of Ontario (Heritage Oxford).

Please note that for the last few years, The ACO has organized a conference in conjunction with its annual general members' meeting. The AGM will take place on Sunday morning, April 21, 1996 at the Woodstock Museum in the old Town Hall, 466 Dundas Street. The ACO's educational video program, "Built To Last", will be premiered.

Conference

Friday April 19

New St. Paul's Anglican Church Parish Hall

8:30 to 9:00 a.m. Registration,

Book Fair all day.

Speakers:

Donald Schmitt, A. J. Diamond, Donald Schmitt & Company. *The Chamber at the Legislature, Queen's Park.*

Rev. Dr. J. Finn, *The Restoration of St. Patrick's Church, Lucan.*

Brian Hunt, Associate Professor at University of Waterloo. *The Importance of Interior Public Spaces in Canadian Architecture..*

Fred Cane, Ministry of Citizenship, Culture and Recreation. *Historic Photographs of Late Victorian Domestic Interiors in Ontario.*

Lunch Break.

Melissa Gordon, Ministry of Citizenship, Culture and Recreation. *Understanding Interiors and How to Record Them.*

Catriona Dunnet, House of Dunnet, Toronto, and Guy Evans Ltd. (U.K.) *Replicating Interior Materials.*

Gerald Doyle, Ontario Realty Corporation. *Conversion of the Hamilton Post Office to a Provincial Courthouse.*

Pat Warren, Capitol Theatre and Arts Centre. *Capitol Theatre, Windsor.*

Walking Tour of Downtown Woodstock: to include the Market Building, Firehall, Jail, Armories, and Court House.

Dinner on your own.

Conference

Saturday, April 20

New St. Paul's Anglican Church Parish Hall

8:30 to 9:00 a.m. Registration.

Book Fair continues.

Speakers:

Ross Hanham, Garwood-Jones and Hanham. *Conversion of the Toronto-Hamilton-Buffalo Railway Station into a GO Station for Hamilton.*

L.A. (Sandy) Smallwood, Andrex Holdings. *Three Approaches to Adaptive Reuse of Historic Interiors.*

Peter Elliott, Ontario Heritage Foundation. *Ontario Interiors, Properties held in Trust by the Ontario Heritage Foundation.*

Sheila Johnson, Curator, Woodstock Museum. *Restoration of the Opera House in the old Woodstock Town Hall.*

Bus Tour & Lunch

6.30 p.m. Dinner at Chez Ami Restaurant, 476 Peel Street, Woodstock
(cost not covered by registration fee)

Annual General Meeting

Sunday, April 21

Woodstock Museum

466 Dundas Street, Woodstock

9:00 a.m. Registration

9:30 a.m. Annual General Meeting of the ACO for 1996.

Reports of Committee Chair

Financial Report

Appointment of Auditors

Report of Nominating Committee

Election of Officers for 1996

Motions and Petitions

Branch Reports

Premiere of "Built to Last" the ACO's video program on town centres.*

Lunch

*Produced by Art and Industry [John Martins-Manteiga]. It was financed jointly by The ACO and the Ontario Government through the Ministry of Citizenship, Culture and Recreation.

Registration Form

for the Interiors Stories conference and
the 1996 Annual General Meeting of the ACO.

Please check off the appropriate boxes:

Conference - both days:

(includes Friday's lunch and walking tour of Woodstock)

ACO members per person: \$55.00 x _____
non-members per person \$70.00 x _____ \$_____

Conference - Saturday only:

ACO members per person: \$20.00 x _____
non-members per person \$40.00 x _____ \$_____

Saturday afternoon bus tour of Oxford County
(includes lunch)

\$25.00 per person x _____ \$_____

Lunch after the AGM Sunday April 21

\$10.00 per person x _____ \$_____

Total enclosed: \$_____

Name _____

Address _____

Postal Code _____ Phone ____ - ____ - ____

I am a member of _____ Branch of the ACO.

Please make your cheque payable to the **ACO (Heritage Oxford)**.
and mail to:

**Interior Stories - E. Gardhouse,
156 Oxford Street
Woodstock ON N4S 6A9.**

Confirmation will be sent if payment received prior to April 1, 1996.
For more information call Jack Hedges (evenings) at (519) 537-2284.

Mrs. Beck pointed out that this action must be taken by Council. It was moved by Mr. Dilse, seconded by Mr. Christopher Borgal, that the report of the Advisory Board be accepted. CARRIED.

PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

Mr. Martins-Manteiga noted that he had served as chair for the committee as an interim measure, and asked for an ACO member to fill its function. He noted that the Terra Cotta exhibition in Hamilton has been a great success and that the other major project, the Town Centre video, would be pursued again now that the Cash Calendar workload had lessened. It was moved by Mr. Martins-Manteiga, seconded by Mr. Dilse, that the Report of the Program Development Committee be accepted. CARRIED.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

The President thanked retiring Membership & Publicity chair Joyce Sowby for the initiatives which she had undertaken and noted that a letter of thanks had been sent to retiring Advisory Board Chair Bill Greer. He also expressed his thanks to the Heritage Administrator , Mr. Martins-Manteiga and his support for Mr. Martins-Manteiga's request for an equipment update. Mr. Keefer further remarked that our Financial Report was encouraging in showing a steady increase in assets.

APPROVAL OF THE ACTIONS OF OFFICERS AND COUNCIL

Approval was moved by Mrs. Sculthorpe, seconded by Mr. Borgal. CARRIED.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS AND MEMBERS-AT-LARGE

Mrs. Julia Beck, Chair of the Nominating Committee, presented

the proposed slate of Officers and Members-at-Large for 1995-1996, as follows:

President: Mr. Alec Keefer
Senior Vice-President:

Mr. William Moffet

Vice-President:

Mrs. Anne McKillop

Vice-President:

Ms Mary Angela Tucker

Treasurer: Mr. John Sutlic

Secretary :

Mrs. Margaret Goodbody

Past President: Mrs. Julia Beck

Members-at-Large:

Mrs. Shirley Ayer

Mrs. Donna Baker

Mr. Dean Ramsay

Mrs. Pat Rosebrugh

Mrs. Ruth Schatz

As there were no further nominations from the floor, it was moved by Mr. Sculthorpe, seconded by Mrs. Kathryn McGarry, that the nominations be closed. It was then moved by Mrs. Beck, seconded by Mrs. Sowby, that the proposed slate of officers for 1995-1996 be approved. CARRIED. The above-named individuals will serve in the office set opposite their names for the ensuing year, each to serve until his or her respective successor shall be elected.

MOTIONS AND PETITIONS

1. The Preserve Walkerville Committee of Windsor, Ontario asks that this Annual General Meeting of The Architectural Conservancy of Ontario Inc. confirm our status as a branch of the organization, as recommended by Council at their meeting of March 11 1995 (signed by Pat Malicki and Janet Graybeil). CARRIED. The executive of the branch will consist of Pat Malicki, President; Duffy Davidson, Vice-President; Janet Graybeil, Secretary-Treasurer.

2. I move that the executive and Council actively look into the purchase of a new computer and how to pay for it (signed by A.K. Sculthorpe, seconded by Mary Angela Tucker). The following friendly amendment was proposed by Mr. Paul Dilse and accepted by the proposers, and that The ACO pursue a Cultural Projects Grant from the Ministry of Culture, Tourism and Recreation towards the purchase of computer equipment. CARRIED.

APPOINTMENT OF AUDITORS

It was moved by Mr. Atkinson, seconded by Mrs. Sculthorpe, that Blackwell Sparks, Chartered Accountants, be appointed auditors for the coming year, and that Council be authorized to fix their remuneration. CARRIED.

BRANCH REPORTS

Branch reports were heard from Quinte Region, Port Hope, Toronto Region, Heritage Cambridge, London Region and Windsor Region.

CLOSING REMARKS

ACO President, Mr. Keefer expressed his thanks to the executive and chairs of committees, and particularly to Marg Rowell for continuing to fill the vital role of ACORN editor.

ADJOURNMENT

It was moved by Mrs. Sculthorpe, seconded by Mrs. McGarry, that this Annual General Meeting of the Architectural Conservancy of Ontario Inc. be adjourned.

*Margaret M. Goodbody,
Secretary.*

HISTORIC HOUSE TOUR

The Cambridge Branch of the ACO will be holding its 1996 House Tour on Saturday, April 27 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. The ticket price will again be \$12, and will include light refreshments. Tickets will be limited to 600, which allows for an unhurried walk through all of the homes and does not cause line ups. We expect to sell most of our tickets in advance and this too will reduce delays at the door.

Last year's House Tour was a great success. Nearly 500 people participated, coming as far away as Woodstock, Ajax, Barrie and Port Hope! Funds raised from the House Tour go towards Heritage Cambridge's many public education initiatives and other projects such as providing improved access to the recently acquired Sheave Tower.

As usual there is a wonderful collection of buildings to visit - each with their own unique features. The Yates House is celebrating its one hundredth birthday this year and is still in mint condition. Another is the grand residence built of glowing pink brick for the family of industrialist Alexander Goldie, one of the founding fathers of the internationally renowned boiler making company, Babcock and Wilcox. The Hilborn House, designed by Arthur Erickson in 1974, blends perfectly into its setting on a bank high above the Grand River. The red brick Lowe House, on the outskirts of Hespeler is filled with memorabilia reminiscent of the 1930s. A classic Ontario villa, the Hoyland House, is built of warm, fossilized limestone with a pressed tin design on the porch pediment, perfect original doors, candy cane woodwork and a trompe-l'oeil in the kitchen.

The Gore Mutual Insurance building in old Galt, a finely maintained business establishment, is also on the Tour, with its prominent copper roof and stone of gray granite collected from farm fields in the immediate area. The interior is remarkable both for its excellent detailing

and the use of different woods and stones - five varieties being used in the rotunda area alone.

There will be guided tours of St. Andrew's Hespeler Presbyterian Church which was built in 1906. Light refreshments will be served in the Church hall throughout the day while musicians from local high schools perform.

Tickets can be ordered by mail by sending a cheque for \$13.00 (includes \$1.00 for postage and handling), to: Heritage Cambridge, 14 Crescent Place, Cambridge, Ontario, N1S 2N8. For more information please call Sheila O'Donovan at (519) 622-2988, Fax (519) 624-0182.

Come to Cambridge for our Spring House Tour, explore our authentic Farmer's Market and admire the beauty of our picturesque and historic city!

Nominating Committee Report

The members of the committee have met and wish to propose the following slate of Officers and Members-at-Large for the 1996-1997 year: at the Annual General Meeting on Sunday April 21 1996 at 9:30 am in Woodstock

President:

Alice King Sculthorpe

Senior Vice-President:

Anne McKillop

Vice-President:

Mary Angela Tucker

Vice-President:: Terry Foord

Treasurer : (position available)

Secretary: Margaret Goodbody

Members-at-Large:

Shirley Siegwart Ayer

Julia Beck

Pat Malicki

Pat Rosebrugh

Past President- Alec Keefer

Julia Beck

Chair of Nominating Committee.

Dated: 26 February 1996.

Free to a Good Home

The Taylor/Scrimger house is located at the south east corner of the junction of Highways 8 and 97 in the City of Cambridge. It is a late 1830s two-storey Neoclassical residence of post and beam construction with clapboard exterior, which retains much of its original charm and character -- six over six windows, interior doors and hardware. The front section measures 36'5" by 27', and there is a secondary or summer wing at the rear.

This house must be moved by June 30, 1996 to allow redevelopment of the site. So it is free to anyone who will move it off the site and ideally, relocate it somewhere else in Cambridge. Other proposals will also be considered. Anyone interested in moving the Taylor/Scrimger must submit a letter outlining the following: where you propose to move the house; how you propose to move the house; your interest in the house and any previous experience you have in restoration of historic buildings. Your letter should be directed to:

Ms Valerie Spring, M.A.
L.A.C.A.C. Coordinator
Planning Department
City of Cambridge
P.O.Box 669, Cambridge, ON
N1R 5W8
(519-740-4580)

Deadline: April 5, 1996.
Inspection of the building will be permitted only to those who provide written submissions.

Report of the Consulting Heritage Manager

INTRODUCTION

In April 1995, The Architectural Conservancy retained Paul Dilse to manage four programs for Provincial Council:

- 1) co-ordinating the Advisory Board;
- 2) leading workshops;
- 3) developing architectural tours;
- and 4) marketing ACO publications.

An analysis of the work accomplished in 1995 follows.

SUCCESS STORIES

The addition of nine Advisory Board members and a co-ordinator allowed the Advisory Board to expand its service -- nine technical conservation reports (with clients ranging in location from Prescott to Fort Erie), 26 replies to telephone inquiries and one monitoring project (the Don Valley Brick Works). The Advisory Board also increased its profile in the heritage community through a series of publicity articles. Furthermore, the completion of a Manual of Practice gave new and existing Members a guide and standard in the preparation of reports.

With training from head office last offered in 1991, The ACO made great gains in 1995. The November 18 workshop offered at the Ontario Heritage Centre attracted volunteer practitioners and municipal officials while the workshop sessions designed for City of Toronto staff showed a demand for custom-made training. Both workshops were rated highly by participants.

ROOM FOR IMPROVEMENT

We had expected a greater response to our new tours -- a few

ACO members, a club and some others participated. By the end of 1995, we felt we still were not reaching our market for commercially priced and professionally led architectural tours.

Although we raised a respectable amount from book sales (almost \$ 1,500.00), there was not time to promote aggressively The ACO's fine collection of books, monographs and booklets.

DIRECTIONS FOR 1996

The Advisory Board community service program fills an important need in the heritage conservation field. Based on the solid body of work performed in 1995, and with the assistance of new Advisory Board Chairman, Patrick Coles, the Advisory Board is well-positioned to expand further. More publicity should supplement the number of clients who come to us by word of mouth.

Publicity has also been created for the training program, especially for the 1996 workshop. Modelled on the November 1995 workshop, "Documentation at Every Stage of a Heritage Conservation Project" has already been organized for Saturday, November 16, 1996. Interest in our custom-made workshops, like the one for City of Toronto building inspectors, may suffer in 1996 from cuts to municipal budgets.

Due to the weak support for our tours, development of new architectural tours has been suspended. We will focus on the three Toronto "ecotours" already developed. A new leaflet will help promote them. General fund raising will replace tour development as an activity for the consulting heritage manager.

Time permitting, partnerships with publishers and distributors for the promotion of The ACO's publications will be explored in 1996.

CONCLUSION

Program development was greatly enhanced in 1995 by the federal government's Self-Employment Assistance Component (SEA), a job training and creation initiative. The business plan that was prepared as part of the SEA initiative guided the development of the Advisory Board community service program, training, tours and publications marketing over 1995.

Results confirm the business plan's assertion of the potential for growth, albeit at a more modest pace than projected. In the January-to-June 1996 contract between The ACO and consulting heritage manager, an adjustment has been made for the program area that disappointed -- architectural tours -- so that more energy is put on general fund raising.

FULL REPORT

An itemized report detailing the work of the consulting heritage manager in 1995 is available by writing Paul Dilse, Suite 929, 85 Bleecker Street, Toronto, Ontario M4X 1X1. Please send a stamped, self-addressed envelope with your request.

Requests for Advisory Board service can also be directed to Paul at (416) 921-5324. In addition, we can send you information about "Documentation at Every Stage of a Heritage Conservation Project", our publications list and the leaflet describing our tours.

Paul Dilse

If Not Delivered Please Return to:

The Architectural Conservancy
Of Ontario
10 Adelaide Street East
Toronto, Ontario M5C 1J3

